

# Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance: 2017

September 2018

URL: [http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2018/income\\_poverty.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2018/income_poverty.html)

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## Income and Poverty in the United States: 2017

### Current Population Reports

By Kayla Fontenot, Jessica Semega, and Melissa Kollar  
Issued September 2018  
PEO-263

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## The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2017

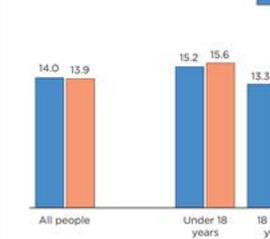
### Current Population Reports

Liana Fox  
PEO-265  
September 2018

#### INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of the first official U.S. poverty estimates, researchers and policy makers have continued to discuss the best approach to measure income and poverty in the United States. Beginning in 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau began publishing the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), which extends the official poverty measure by taking account of many of the government programs designed to assist low-income families and individuals that are not included in the official poverty measure. This is the eighth report describing the SPM, released by the Census Bureau, with support from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This report presents updated estimates of the prevalence of poverty in the United States using the official measure and the SPM based on information collected in 2018 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

Figure 1.  
SPM Poverty Rates for Total Population and Group: 2016 and 2017  
(in percent)



Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling and definitions, see [www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps). Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2018 Economic Supplements.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2017, the overall SPM rate was 13.9 percent. This is not statistically different from the 2016 SPM rate of 14.0 (Figure 1).
- SPM rates were not statistically different for any of the

major age groups. The SPM rate for children under 18 was 15.2 percent in 2016 and 15.6 percent in 2017. The SPM rate for adults 18 and over was 13.3 percent in 2016 and 13.3 percent in 2017.

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## Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2017

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## Income and Poverty in the United States: 2017

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## The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2017

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#### INTRODUCTION

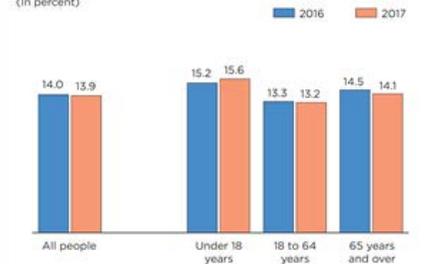
Since the publication of the first official U.S. poverty estimates, researchers and policy makers have continued to discuss the best approach to measure income and poverty in the United States. Beginning in 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau began publishing the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), which extends the official poverty measure by taking account of many of the government programs designed to assist low-income families and individuals that are not included in the official poverty measure. This is the eighth report describing the SPM, released by the Census Bureau, with support from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This report presents updated estimates of the prevalence of poverty in the United States using the official measure and the SPM based on information collected in 2018 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS ASEC).

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2017, the overall SPM rate was 13.9 percent. This is not statistically different from the 2016 SPM rate of 14.0 (Figure 1).
- SPM rates were not statistically different for any of the

major age categories in 2017 compared with 2016. SPM rates for children under age 18 were 15.6 percent, which is not significantly different than 15.2 percent in 2016 (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

Figure 1.  
SPM Poverty Rates for Total Population and by Age Group: 2016 and 2017  
(in percent)



Note: For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar18.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar18.pdf).  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2017-2018 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

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- Data are based on the Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC).
- CPS ASEC is the official source of national poverty estimates.
- Official poverty estimates are calculated in accordance with OMB Statistical Policy Directive 14.

## Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2017

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- Includes Current Population Survey (CPS) and American Community Survey (ACS) data.
- ACS is the recommended source for smaller populations and levels of geography.

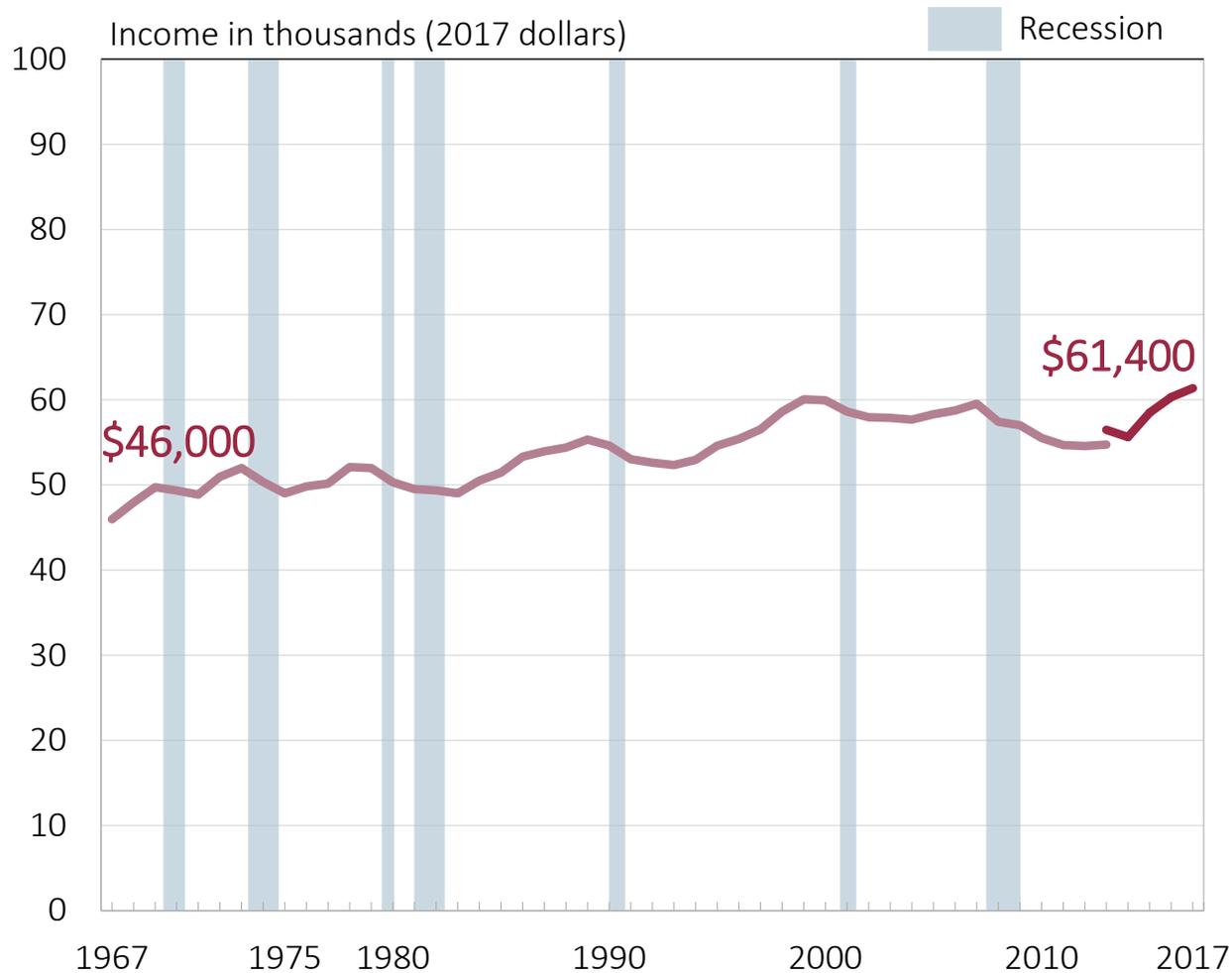
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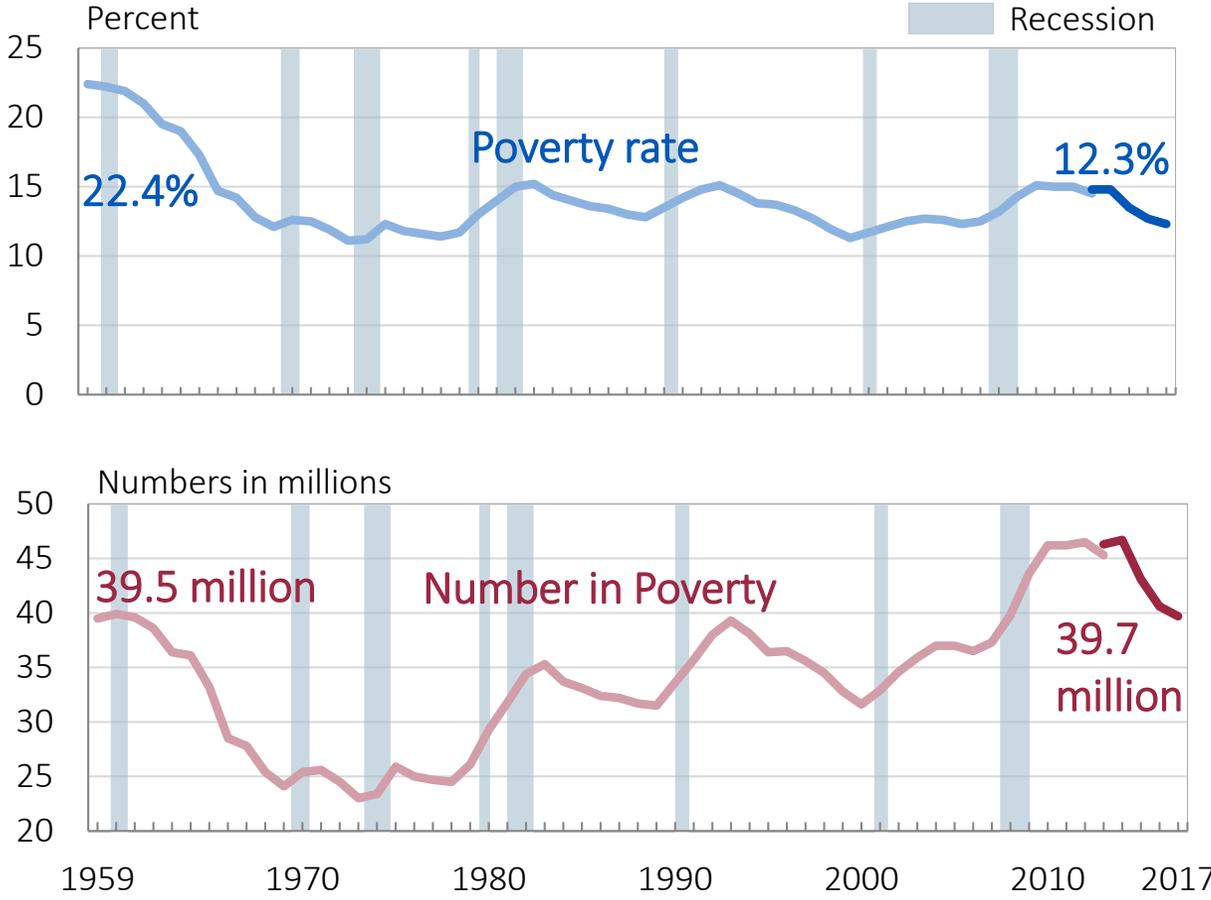
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# Real Median Household Income: 1967 to 2017



Median household income was \$61,400 in 2017, an increase in real terms of 1.8 percent from the 2016 median of \$60,300. This is the third consecutive annual increase in median household income.

# Poverty Rate and Number in Poverty: 1959 to 2017



The official poverty rate in 2017 was 12.3 percent, down 0.4 percentage points from 2016. In 2017, there were 39.7 million people in poverty, not statistically different from the number in poverty in 2016.

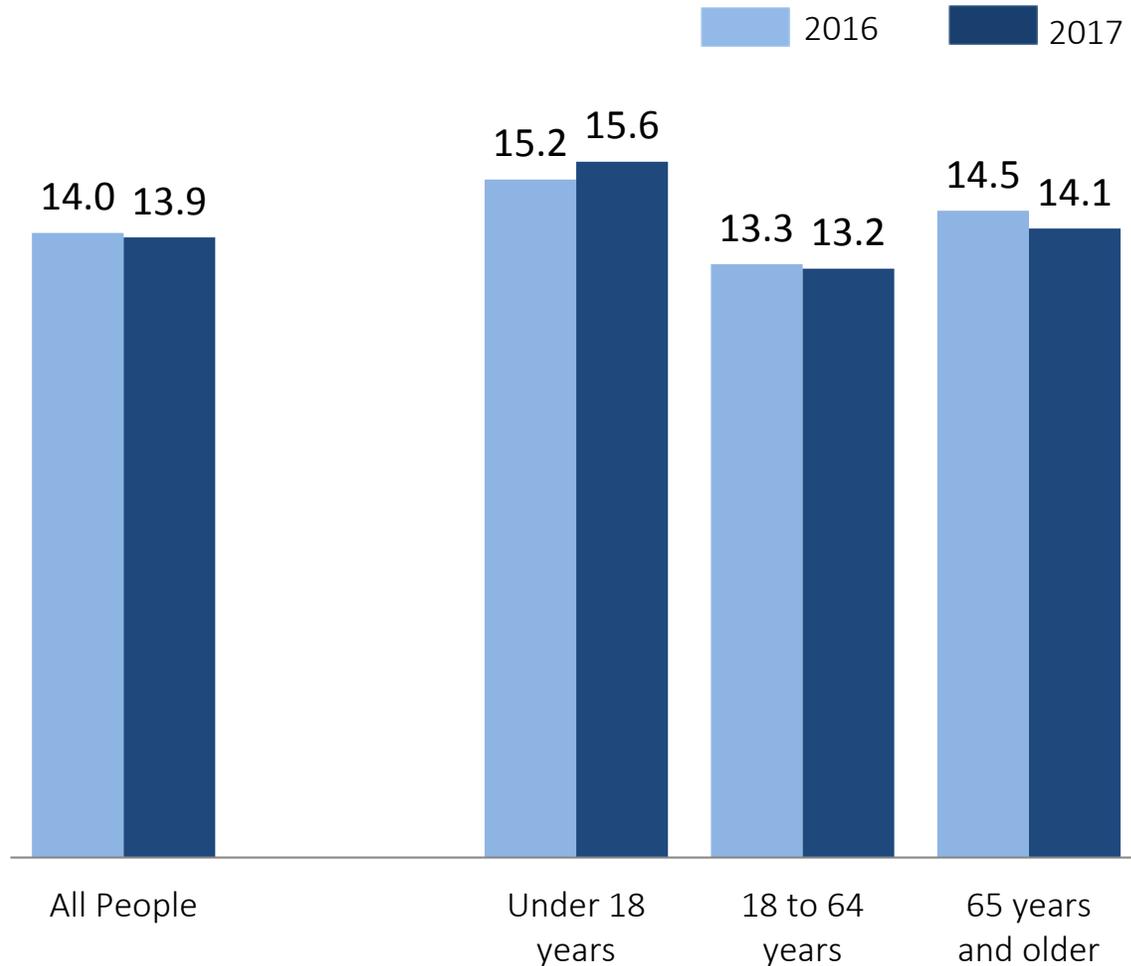


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Note: The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions.  
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2018 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

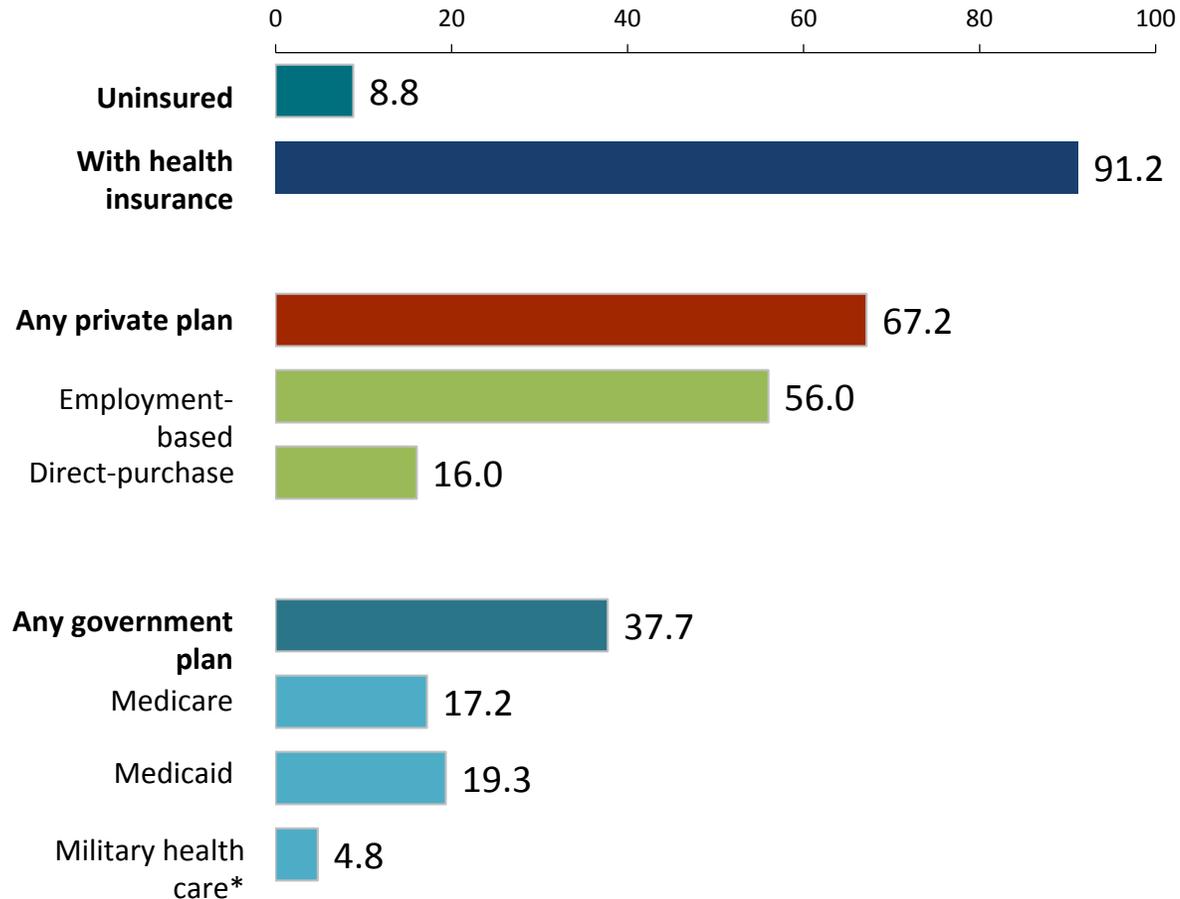
# Comparison of SPM Poverty Estimates: 2016 and 2017

(In Percent)



The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rate in 2017 was 13.9 percent. This is not statistically different from the 2016 SPM rate of 14.0 percent.

# Percentage of People by Type of Health Insurance Coverage: 2017



The percentage of people without health insurance coverage for the entire calendar year was 8.8 percent, or 28.5 million people. The uninsured rate and number of uninsured in 2017 were not statistically different from 2016.